

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An insulating structure comprising:

an elongate insulating shank extending in a longitudinal direction; and
at least one insulating shed extending traverse to the longitudinal direction of the elongate shank;

wherein at least a portion of said shank is defined by a first insulating surface, said first insulating surface having a patterned texture defined by an array of substructures selected from protuberances and concavities, and

wherein at least a portion of said at least one shed is defined by a second insulating surface, said second insulating surface having a patterned texture defined by an array of substructures selected from protuberances and concavities ~~a surface, at least a portion of said surface having a patterned texture.~~

2. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 1, wherein: ~~in which the patterned texture is two dimensional;~~ said shank has a circumference, and said array of substructures of said first insulating surface is spaced around the circumference of said shank and longitudinally along said shank.

3-11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in ~~any of Claims 9 to 11~~ claim 1, in which wherein:

said protuberances and/or concavities are geometrical sections of substructures of said first insulating surface and said second insulating surface have at least one of a spherical, ellipsoidal, paraboloidal, hyperboloidal, conical ~~or and other~~ symmetric form shape.

13. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in claim 1, any of Claims 9 to 12, in which; wherein:

~~the form of the protuberances and/or concavities~~ said array of substructures of said first insulating surface is arranged such that the surface area of said first insulating surface ~~insulating structure~~ is substantially constant per unit length along ~~its~~ the longitudinal direction ~~length of~~ said shank.

14. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of Claims 9 to 12~~, in ~~which,~~ wherein:

said array of substructures of said first insulating surface ~~is the form of the protuberances and/or concavities~~ is arranged such that the surface area of said first insulating surface of said insulating structure ~~is controlled to produce a~~ has a defined variation per unit length along ~~its~~ the longitudinal direction of said shank ~~length~~.